

## SOME RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM WESTERN CAPE YORK PENINSULA, QUEENSLAND

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### Abstract

Twenty-nine species of butterflies are reported from Kowanyama, southwestern Cape York Peninsula, of which 17 are newly recorded and eight confirmed from that area. In addition, nine species are newly recorded from Weipa, northwestern Cape York Peninsula.

### Introduction

Distribution maps for Australian butterflies produced by Braby (2000) have highlighted the paucity of records from western Cape York Peninsula, northern Queensland. For Weipa, most previous records emanate from McCubbin (1972). For southwestern parts of the Peninsula (Kowanyama area) Dunn and Dunn (1991) mapped only four species, while distribution maps in Braby (2000) for other species are based on extrapolation rather than definitive records.

Collecting was undertaken by the present authors during an Australian Biological Resources Study of Cape York Peninsula from 1974-1977 (Monteith and Hancock 1977). Weipa was visited by GBM from 5-8 February 1975 and 3-7 February 1976. Kowanyama (28 km inland from the Gulf coast on Magnificent Creek, a tributary of the Mitchell River) was visited by DLH from 7-14 January 1977. A few additional specimens were collected at Weipa by K. DeWitte in February 1976.

Fifty-two species were recorded from Weipa and 29 from Kowanyama (Table 1). For Weipa, these wet season records supplement those made during the dry season by McCubbin (1972). Nomenclature follows Braby (2000) and voucher specimens are held in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

### Records from Weipa

Collecting took place around Weipa township, Kerr (Hibberd) Point (an area with relict rainforest) and Andoom. This area lies in the Northeastern Floristic Zone (see Dunn and Dunn 1991).

The following species are newly recorded from Weipa: *Taractrocera ina*, *Ocybadistes ardea ardea*, *Suniana sunias reactivitta*, *Telicota colon argeus*, *Telicota mesoptis mesoptis*, *Graphium agamemnon ligatum*, *Papilio fuscus capaneus*, *Arhopala wildei*, *Zizula hylax attenuata*.

*Delias mysis mysis* and *Hypolimnas misippus* were collected at Weipa by K. DeWitte in February 1976, along with *Papilio aegeus aegeus*, *Cressida cressida cressida*, *Catopsilia pomona*, *Mycalesis perseus perseus*, *Precis orithya albicincta* and *Precis hedonia zelima*.

**Table 1.** Butterflies recorded at Kowanyama in January 1977 and at Weipa in February 1975 and February 1976. A = Kowanyama township; B = Magnificent Creek, upstream of township; C = stock camp, 15 km from township; D = Weipa township [x = 1975; o = 1976]; E = Kerr Point [1976]; F = Andoom [1976].

	Kowanyama			Weipa		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>HESPERIIDAE</b>						
<i>Tagiades japetus janetta</i> Butler				x	x	x
<i>Taractrocer a ina</i> Waterhouse	x				x	x
<i>Ocybadistes walkeri sothis</i> Waterhouse						x
<i>Ocybadistes ardea ardea</i> Bethune-Baker	x				x	
<i>Suniana sunias reactivitta</i> (Mabille)				x	x	
<i>Telicota colon argeus</i> (Plötz)				x	x	x
<i>Telicota augias krefftii</i> (W.J. Macleay)				x	x	
<i>Telicota mesoptis mesoptis</i> Lower	x				x	
<i>Pelopidas lyelli lyelli</i> (Rothschild)	x	x	x			
<b>PAPILIONIDAE</b>						
<i>Graphium sarpedon choredon</i> (C. & R. Felder)						x
<i>Graphium macfarlanei macfarlanei</i> (Butler)						x
<i>Graphium agamemnon ligatum</i> (Rothschild)						x
<i>Papilio aegaeus aegaeus</i> Donovan				o	x	
<i>Papilio fuscus capaneus</i> Westwood	x			x	x	
<i>Papilio ulysses joesa</i> Butler [sight record]				o		
<i>Papilio demoleus sthenelus</i> W.S. Macleay	x	x				
<i>Cressida cressida cressida</i> (Fabricius)	x			x	x	x
<i>Pachliopta polydorus queenslandicus</i> (Rothschild)						x
<b>PIERIDAE</b>						
<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius)	x	x		o	x	
<i>Eurema laeta sana</i> (Butler)	x	x			x	
<i>Eurema hecabe hecabe</i> (Linnaeus)		x		x	x	x
<i>Elodina walkeri</i> Butler					x	
<i>Cepora perimale scyllara</i> (W.S. Macleay)					x	
<i>Appias paulina ega</i> (Boisduval)					x	
<i>Delias mysis mysis</i> (Fabricius)				o		
<b>NYMPHALIDAE</b>						
<i>Melanitis leda bankia</i> (Fabricius)	x			x	x	x
<i>Mycalesis perseus perseus</i> (Fabricius)	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Mycalesis terminus terminus</i> (Fabricius)				x	x	
<i>Ypthima arctoa arctoa</i> (Fabricius)				x	x	
<i>Pantoporia consimilis consimilis</i> (Boisduval)	x	x				

	Kowanyama			Weipa		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>NYMPHALIDAE (cont.)</b>						
<i>Pantoporia venilia moorei</i> (W.J. Macleay)					x	
<i>Phaedyma shepherdii shepherdii</i> (Moore)					x	x
<i>Hypolimnas alimena lamina</i> Fruhstorfer				x	x	x
<i>Hypolimnas bolina nerina</i> (Fabricius)	x	x	x	x	x	
<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i> (Linnaeus)				o		
<i>Precis orithya albicincta</i> Butler	x			x	x	x
<i>Precis villida calybe</i> (Godart)	x			x	x	
<i>Precis hedonia zelima</i> (Fabricius)	x	x	x	o	x	
<i>Danaus chrysippus petilia</i> (Stoll)	x	x	x		x	x
<i>Danaus affinis affinis</i> (Fabricius)	x		x	x	x	x
<i>Euploea sylvester sylvester</i> (Fabricius)	x					
<i>Euploea darchia niveata</i> (Butler)					x	
<i>Euploea core corinna</i> (W.S. Macleay)	x	x	x		x	
<i>Euploea alcathoe eichhorni</i> Staudinger	x					
<i>Tellervo zoilus gelo</i> Waterhouse & Lyell					x	
<b>LYCAENIDAE</b>						
<i>Hypochrysops polycletus rovena</i> Druce						x
<i>Arhopala centaurus centaurus</i> (Fabricius)	x		x			
<i>Arhopala micale amytis</i> (Hewitson)				x	x	
<i>Arhopala wildei</i> Miskin					x	
<i>Hypolycaena phorbas phorbas</i> (Fabricius)		x	x		x	x
<i>Anthene seltuttus affinis</i> (Waterhouse & Turner)	x		x			
<i>Anthene lycaenoides godeffroyi</i> (Semper)		x				
<i>Candalides erinus erinus</i> (Fabricius)				x	x	
<i>Nacaduba berenice berenice</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)					x	
<i>Psychonotis caelius taygetus</i> (C. & R. Felder)					x	x
<i>Catochrysops panormus platissa</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)	x	x		x		
<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i> (Moore)	x	x			x	
<i>Zizina labradus labdalon</i> Waterhouse & Lyell	x					
<i>Famegana alsulus alsulus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)					x	x
<i>Zizula hylax attenuata</i> (T.P. Lucas)				x		
<i>Euchrysops cnejus cnidus</i> Waterhouse & Lyell					x	

### Records from Kowanyama

Collecting took place around Kowanyama township, along Magnificent Creek (0-6.5 km upstream of township) and at a stock camp about 15 km from the township. This area lies in the Northern Floristic Zone (see Dunn and Dunn 1991).

Seventeen of the 29 species known from Kowanyama are newly recorded: *Taractrocera ina*, *Ocybadistes ardea ardea*, *Telicota mesoptis mesoptis*, *Pelopidas lyelli lyelli*, *Papilio fuscus capaneus*, *Eurema laeta sana*, *Melanitis leda bankia*, *Mycalasis perseus perseus*, *Precis orithya albicincta*, *Precis hedonia zelima*, *Danaus affinis affinis*, *Euploea alcathoe eichhorni*, *Arhopala centaurus centaurus*, *Hypolycaena phorbas phorbas*, *Anthene lycanoides godeffroyi*, *Catochrysops panormus platissa*, *Zizina labradus labdalon*.

Occurrence of eight other species at Kowanyama is confirmed: *Papilio demoleus sthenelus*, *Catopsilia pomona*, *Eurema hecabe hecabe*, *Danaus chrysippus petilia*, *Euploea sylvester sylvester*, *Euploea core corinna*, *Hypolimnas bolina nerina*, *Precis villida calybe*. An additional species, *Anthene seltuttus affinis*, was recorded by Dunn and Dunn (1991) and Braby (2000) but inadvertently omitted from the map in Braby (2000).

Specimens of *Arhopala centaurus centaurus* from Kowanyama are a duller purple than usual and, like the Karumba specimen recorded by Dunn and Dunn (1991) and Braby (2000), are difficult to place to subspecies, showing some resemblance to *A. c. asopus* Waterhouse & Lyell. All specimens of *Eurema laeta sana* collected belong to the wet-season form. Males of *Papilio demoleus sthenelus*, *Eurema laeta sana*, *Hypolimnas bolina nerina*, *Catochrysops panormus platissa* and *Zizeeria karsandra* were collected at mud puddle aggregations.

### Other records

The following records of interest are noted also, extending the known distributions south of Iron Range and reducing the gap between these northern populations and those further south. Localities are mapped in Monteith and Hancock (1977).

*Suniana sunias reactivita*. Mt White near Coen, Peach Creek, McIlwraith Range and near Stewart River mouth (June-July 1976 - GBM & M. De Baar).

*Arhopala wildei*. Peach Creek near McIlwraith Range (June-July 1976 - GBM & M. De Baar); near Stewart River mouth (June-July 1975 - GBM).

### References

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